

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 9 and 10 are amended to further distinguish from Kishimoto (U.S. Patent No. 5,895,128). Support for the claim amendments can be found in the original specification at, for example, page 2, line 15 to page 3, line 22, page 20, lines 14-24 and page 22, line 15 to page 27, line 15. Claims 4-5, and 7-8 are amended to recite the term "only" to further define the subject matter. The title is amended in accordance with the Patent Office's suggestion. No new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-11 are respectfully requested.

Objection To The Title

The title was objected to for allegedly not being descriptive. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The title has been amended as suggested by the Patent Office to recite "CAMERA SYSTEM WITH CURRENT AND DISCHARGE CONTROLLED ILLUMINATION" and is descriptive.

In view of the amendment to the title, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejection

Claims 4-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Kishimoto. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 4 requires, among other features, an illumination control device that (1) issues the light emission instruction to only one of the first illuminating device and the second illuminating device if a shutter speed for a photographing operation is set equal to or lower than a synchronous speed for the first illuminating device and (2) issues the light emission instruction to only the second illuminating device if the shutter speed for the photographing

operation is set higher than the synchronous speed. Kishimoto does not describe at least these features of claim 4.

Kishimoto does not describe all of the features of claim 4. Kishimoto describes an electronic flash that includes a primary emission unit for emitting flash light for illuminating an object and an auxiliary emission unit for emitting light having a different color temperature from the flash light. See the Abstract of Kishimoto. Kishimoto describes a electronic flash 1 having a first light emission window 2 with a condenser lens 3 for emitting a flash light. See col. 3, lines 1-10 of Kishimoto. Kishimoto describes a second light emission window 4 that is located below the first light emission window 2. The second light emission window 4 has a light emitting diode (LED) 5 located behind the light emission window 2 for changing the color temperature of the flash light. See col. 3, lines 11-16 of Kishimoto. Kishimoto varies the color temperature of the illumination light by mixing the flash light with the light from the LED 5, which can include a red LED 501A and a blue LED 501B.

Kishimoto describes that whether the electronic flash 1 needs to be fired is based on the object brightness data detected by a light metering circuit 39 and exposure control values. As admitted by the Patent Office, "Kishimoto does not describe any modification to the flash sequence based on the shutter speed relative to a shutter sync speed or any other speed. Thus, both illumination devices in the flash will always trigger when flash photography is activated without regard to if the shutter speed is above the synchronous speed." (emphasis added) See page 3, paragraph c, of the Office Action.

Amended claim 4 recites "an illumination control device that issues the light emission instruction to only one of the first illuminating device and the second illuminating device if a shutter speed for a photographing operation is set equal to or lower than a synchronous speed for the first illuminating device." (emphasis added)

Kishimoto is thus very different from claim 4. As admitted by the Patent Office, "both of the illuminating devices [of Kishimoto] are always triggered when the photograph is taken." (emphasis added) Thus, Kishimoto does not describe any structure that describes an illumination control device that issues the light emission instruction to only one of the first illuminating device and the second illuminating device if a shutter speed for a photographing operation is set equal to or lower than a synchronous speed for the first illuminating device, as required by claim 4.

Claims 5-7 depend from claim 4. For at least their respective dependency and for the additional features recited, claims 5-7 are also not anticipated by Kishimoto.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejections

The following claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious:

(1) claims 1, 3 and 9-10 over HP Photosmart 945 User's Manual ("User's Manual") in view of Kishimoto;

(2) claims 2 and 11 over User's Manual and Kishimoto in view of Boyd (U.S. Patent No. 6,456,797); and

(3) claim 8 over Kishimoto in view of User's Manual.

Applicant respectfully traverses each of these rejections.

User's Manual In View Of Kishimoto

The Patent Office alleges that User's Manual describes all of the features of claim 1 except:

(1) that the illuminating device comprises two illuminating devices, specifically a discharge control-type first illuminating device that emits illuminating light toward a subject in response to a light emission instruction issued after light emission is enabled and a current-

controlled second illuminating device that emits illuminating light toward the subject in response to the light emission instruction; and

(2) an illumination control device that issues a light emission instruction to only the first illuminating device if the single-shot photographing mode has been selected by the photographing mode selection device and issues the light emission instruction to only the second illuminating device if the continuous shooting mode has been selected by the photographing mode selection device.

The Patent Office alleges that Kishimoto remedies the deficiencies of User's Manual.

Kishimoto does not remedy the deficiencies of User's Manual. As discussed above, with regard to claim 4, Kishimoto does not describe or provide any reason or rationale for one of ordinary skill in the art to have come to an illumination control device that issues a light emission instruction to only the first illuminating device if the single-shot photographing mode has been selected by the photographing mode selection device and issues the light emission instruction to only the second illuminating device if the continuous shooting mode has been selected by the photographing mode selection device. Thus, Kishimoto does not remedy the deficiencies of User's Manual.

Claims 3, 9 and 10 depend from claim 1. For at least their respective dependency, and for the additional features recited, the combination of User's Manual and Kishimoto also does not render obvious claims 3, 9 and 10.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

User's Manual And Kishimoto In View Of Boyd

Boyd does not remedy the deficiencies of User's Manual and Kishimoto. Boyd describes an electronic flash unit that has dual capacitor switching to reduce flash ready time for flash firing. See the Abstract of Boyd. Boyd describes that when the charge/discharge monitor 72 informs the controller 84 that the first flash capacitor is fully charged, the

controller orders the charge switching circuit 70 to change from its first state to its second state to disconnect the first flash capacitor 66 from the flash charging circuit 54, and alternately connect the second flash capacitor. See col. 4, lines 12-19 of Boyd. In short, Boyd merely alternates from one capacitor to another, one being charged, the other firing the single flash unit.

Boyd does not describe, or provide any reason or rationale for one of ordinary skill in the art to have come to, at least the feature of claim 1 that requires an illumination control device that issues a light emission instruction to only the first illuminating device if the single-shot photographing mode has been selected by the photographing mode selection device and issues the light emission instruction to only the second illuminating device if the continuous shooting mode has been selected by the photographing mode selection device, as required by claim 1.

Claims 2 and 11 depend from claim 1. For at least their respective dependency, and for the additional features recited, the combination of User's Manual, Kishimoto and Boyd do not render claims 2 and 11 obvious.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Kishimoto In View Of User's Manual

As discussed above, the combination of Kishimoto and User's Manual does not render obvious at least the feature of claim 4 that requires an illumination control device that (1) issues the light emission instruction to only one of the first illuminating device and the second illuminating device if a shutter speed for a photographing operation is set equal to or lower than a synchronous speed for the first illuminating device and (2) issues the light emission instruction to only the second illuminating device if the shutter speed for the photographing operation is set higher than the synchronous speed.

Claim 8 depends from claim 4. For at least its respective dependency, and for the additional features recited, the combination of Kishimoto and User's Manual does not render obvious claim 8.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Concluding Remarks

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-11 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: June 8, 2009

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